

The “National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act of 2005” (S. 1411)
(Updated July 19, 2005)

Purpose:

To establish a four-year pilot program, the purpose of which is to provide resources to Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) so they may provide free-of-charge, non-punitive regulatory compliance assistance to small business owners.

Pilot Program:

The legislation requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide matching grants to the SBDC programs of two states in each of the SBA’s 10 regions. The grants shall be more than \$150,000, but less than \$300,000 and shall be consistent with the matching requirement under current law.

Grant Purpose:

SBDCs are required to use the grants to provide: access to information and resources, including current Federal and State non-punitive compliance and technical assistance programs; conduct training and educational activities; and, offer confidential, free-of-charge, one-on-one, in-depth counseling to the owners and operators of small business concerns regarding compliance with Federal and State regulations derived from Federal law.

SBDC Reporting Requirement:

SBDCs participating in the pilot program would be required to submit a quarterly report that includes: a summary of the regulatory compliance assistance provided by the center under the pilot program; the number of small business concerns assisted under the pilot program; and for every fourth report, any regulatory compliance information based on Federal law that a Federal or State agency has provided to the center during the preceding year and requested that it be disseminated to small business concerns.

SBA Requirements:

The SBA would have responsibility for evaluating the pilot program and making recommendations on the extension of the program to other SBDCs. The SBA must also promulgate final regulations to carry out the pilot program within 180 days of passage.